Questions & Answers
PluggedInVA RFP Technical Assistance Webinar
April 26, 2013

1. *What is the maximum allowable length of time of a PIVA cohort, e.g., 6 months, 12 months, etc.*

    There is no prescribed maximum length of time for a PluggedInVA cohort, but applicants should design a program that begins and ends during the 11 month award period and meets the required components of the program. Because of the intensity of instruction, applicants should give serious considerations to designing a cohort that allows for the attainment of student goals but does not have a duration that challenges the students' ability to continue their participation.

2. *Our community college partner requires a GED prior to enrollment into a community college course. Is there any flexibility regarding the minimum number of 12 transferrable credits?*

    Changes in the ability to benefit requirements for Pell Grant recipients prohibit postsecondary students from receiving Pell grants without a secondary credential. However, students may typically attend community college using other sources of funding. If the community college in your area will not admit students without a secondary credential, and you wish to partner with them for the postsecondary education component of your cohort, you should design your cohort so that students can receive contextualized GED instruction that will also prepare them for the industry-specific coursework at the community college while they continue to develop other certifications, e.g., CRC, and digital literacy, workplace readiness, and 21st century skills. Students may enroll at community college once they earn their secondary credentials, but they should continue to receive support services during their enrollment. Finally, remember that PluggedInVA is a career pathways bridge programs with specific expectations for student achievement. Successful cohorts prepare students to gain employment or continue with postsecondary education. As such, they are more complex and afford more opportunity than typical accelerated GED preparation programs.

3. *Is it possible to use Middle College credits towards the minimum credits?*

    If the credits earned while enrolled in Middle College allow the student to attain an industry-recognized credential or meet the other requirements of PluggedInVA, they may be suitable for the recommended minimum 12 credit minimum.

    If you have additional questions or need clarification, please contact James André, special, at (804) 371-7852 or via e-mail at james.andre@doe.virginia.gov or Kate Daly, PluggedInVA coordinator, at (804) 827-1946 or via e-mail at kedaly@vcu.edu.